

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, February 17, 2010, for the purpose of meeting with the Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) Board.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. It was held in the GATE studio in the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Emmett V. Jordan, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Edward V. J. Putens joined at 8:06 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; and Cindy Murray, City Clerk.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Robert Zugby, GATE President; Tom White, GATE Treasurer/Secretary; Peter Lord and Alan Haley, GATE Board Members; George Kochell, GATE Production Manager & Animation Instructor; and Malia Murray, GATE Executive Director.

Mr. Zugby welcomed everyone to the GATE Studio.

Mr. White reviewed the treasurer's report. He mentioned GATE had experienced a 30 percent rate increase for insurance coverage recently and anticipates large expenditures for the replacement of camera equipment and outdated software in the near future.

Mr. Kochell discussed the animation program, which is co-sponsored by GATE and the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts (GAVA). He said the program served approximately 50 children last year, and one film had won a film festival award. Ms. Mach suggested the children enter an animated film clip in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Clean Air Partners contest in honor of Earth Day.

Ms. Murray reviewed GATE's milestones over the past year. She reported a new GATE brochure had been produced, a part-time production manager had been hired, designated channels on both Comcast and FIOS had been established, and 15 hours of programming were offered daily. She added that GATE continues to provide opportunities for both member productions and for Greenbelt non-profit organizations to produce public service announcements (PSA).

Ms. Mach mentioned the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability may wish to make a PSA for Earth Hour. Mr. Putens suggested a taped profile of the different City departments and their responsibilities would be a way to educate residents on City functions. Ms. Murray said she would discuss this idea with Beverly Palau, the City's Information and Communications Coordinator. Mr. White said it would be advantageous for the City to use Greenbelt In Focus clips for outreach and education purposes.

Mr. White reported on the continued success of the Utopia Film Festival. He said the committee is looking at ways to better utilize the theater at Beltway Plaza during the festival. Mayor Davis mentioned the difficulty of members of Council attending the festival each year since it is scheduled at the same time as the Maryland Municipal League fall conference. Mr. White said he would refer the concern to the committee, but indicated the festival is normally locked into that week.

Mr. Zugby explained that GATE would like to establish a dedicated teaching area outside of the studio area and is looking for additional work space. Mayor Davis and Mr. Putens said that space

may become available in the historic Greenbelt Middle School or in the St. Hugh's School building.

Mr. Zugby commented on the good working relationship between the City and GATE and thanked the City for their support. He also thanked Ms. Palau for her assistance to GATE.

Informational Items

Mayor Davis reported Dollar Tree was moving into space vacated by Pier One at Greenway Center.

Council recommended the Greenbelt Community Foundation and Friends of the Resource Advocate be nominated for the Maryland Municipal League Achievement Award.

The meeting ended at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Murray
City Clerk*